FYI

(1758)

Night Reading

We continue to provide the Government of Guyana with the assistance they have requested to cope with the Peoples Temple disaster. Logistical problems have delayed arrival of U.S. helicopters and our military technicians to handle the dead. However, the operation, which will cost several million dollars, is now in full swing and we expect 8-10 helicopters operational by noon Wednesday; body bags will be in country and our technicians in place. Unfortunately, the passage of over 72 hours since death will complicate identification and packing. The Guyana Cabinet today requested that, despite their deteriorating condition, we remove all bodies to the U.S. and we plan to do so. As our transportation and communication assets become available, we will continue to give the highest priority to the search for additional survivors in the nearby jungle areas.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE DEISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFY ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE ☐
to the public INSTRUCTIONS _____

JABushnell, 11/21/78